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**Introduced by Senator Harman**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Cook, DeVore, Horton, Huff, Karnette,  
and Maze)

May 14, 2007

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 50—Relative to child abuse and neglect.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 50, as introduced, Harman. Child abuse and neglect.

This measure would strongly encourage the State Board of Education to include instruction on preventing child abuse and neglect in the next set of health education content standards.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In 2004, the State Department of Social Services  
2 estimated that 378,301 cases of abuse and neglect involving  
3 approximately 713,391 children were referred for investigation;  
4 and  
5 WHEREAS, According to an audit conducted in 2002 by the  
6 State Department of Health Services, 140 children died in the state  
7 as a result of abuse and neglect; and  
8 WHEREAS, Child abuse occurs at every socioeconomic level,  
9 across ethnic and cultural lines, within all religions, and at all levels  
10 of education; and  
11 WHEREAS, Innumerable scientific studies have documented  
12 the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range  
13 of medical, emotional, psychological, and behavioral disorders;  
14 and

1 WHEREAS, Children should be taught to understand dangerous  
2 and potentially dangerous circumstances, and be given the  
3 knowledge and confidence needed to best handle or resist them;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, To combat child abuse in California and the nation,  
6 we should empower our children with the tools they need to stay  
7 safe; and

8 WHEREAS, The rationale for child abuse prevention programs  
9 is clear, and studies all across the nation illustrate the effectiveness  
10 of preventive programs; and

11 WHEREAS, In addition to having a potential for prevention,  
12 child abuse prevention programs create environments in which  
13 children can more easily disclose prior or ongoing maltreatment,  
14 and they offer an immediate opportunity for present victims to  
15 reach out for help, thereby preventing continued abuse; and

16 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education is scheduled to adopt  
17 content standards in health education in 2009; and

18 WHEREAS, From the content standards, an updated framework  
19 will be developed, and in 2012, the State Board of Education will  
20 adopt instructional materials for use by districts; and

21 WHEREAS, We must take a proactive approach to protecting  
22 our most vulnerable segment of society; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
24 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby strongly  
25 encourages the State Board of Education to include instruction on  
26 preventing child abuse and neglect in the next set of health  
27 education content standards; and be it further

28 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
29 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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